Sabha on the 24th May, 1990 and state :

(a) whether those cases which were started against the owners of taxis and cars in the year 1985 and 1986 had been resolved with the receipt of payments that were due against most of them ;

(b) whether a few of the owners of such vehicles did not agree to pay the exorbitant legal fees levied in such cases ;

(c) whether the bank has been still contesting those cases for realisation of legal dues ;

(d) if so, what are the details of expenditure so far incurred against each such case ; and

(e) what further action is being proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Problems being faced by Tea Industry

1832. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems being faced by the Tea Industry at present ;

(b) if so, the steps taken to sort out these incidence of taxation and the availability of ceiling surplus land ; and

(c) the stand taken by the Tea Board on these issues ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India have taken several steps to overcome the problems posed by incidence of taxation and non-availability of ceiling surplus land. These steps include: introduction of Tea Development Account Scheme, excise duty rebate on exports of bulk tea, complete exemption of excise duty rebate on exports of packet teas, exemption of excise duty on tea bags, formulation of Plantation Development Coordination Committee, etc. These matters have also been taken up with the State Governments concerned.

Supply of pig iron to Saran Engineering Company by Steel Authority of India Limited

1833. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1643 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th May, 1990 and state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited had by its letter dated the 5th August, 1981 agreed to supply pig iron @ 250 MT per month to one Saran Engineering Company Limited, a Government managed company, to enable it to keep up its commitments to priority sectors, including defence industries ;

(b) whether arrangements were made for the supply of given material from Bokaro Steel Plant ;

(c) whether the Bokaro Steel Plant had failed to keep the schedule of supplies ;

(d) whether the company has been requesting to reduce the supply to 100 MT only per month in view of the shortages being experienced by Bokaro Steel Plant :

(e) if so, what are the details

(f) what action is proposed to be taken to get the supplies restored with immediate effect ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) to (c) No separate agreement is entered into by SAIL with individual customers. Pig Iron is supplied to the customers in accordance with the distribution guidelines formulated by the Joint Plant Committee, from time to time, depending upon the actual availability.

The letter dated 5th August, 1981 was not an agreement but an intimation about making supplies through Bokaro Steel Plant, as per availability.

(d) to (f) During the current year, the party has been making registration for 300 tonnes per quarter and supplies of pig iron by SAIL are being made as per availability.

Memorandum submitted by the State Bank Employees Association to the Finance Minister

1834. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a deputation of Delhi State Bank Employees' Federation and All India Bank Officers' Association met the Finance Minister recently and handed over a memorandum to him ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (c) A delegation each of the unions of workmen of State Bank of India and of Officers of the banks met the Finance Minister on 24-1-1990 and 28-6-1990 respectively and submitted their demands. While the workmen union of State Bank of India demanded primarily further benefits in the light of the settlement signed by the Reserve Bank of India with its Class III Staff, the Officers Association raised the issue of manpower shortage, alleged unilateral action by the Government/Indian Banks Association in varying the service conditions of bank officers etc. The demands of workmen unions were negotiated upon by the IBA and a supplementary settlement was signed on 29-6-90. Negotiation between the officers Association and IBA are continuing.

Take over of the Purbanchal Bank Limited as an Associate Bank of SBI

1835. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received a letter dated the 26th July, 1990 from the Bank Officers Association expressing opposition to the proposed taking over of the Purbanchal Bank Limited by the State Bank of India as its associate bank ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for their opposition to the proposal ; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (c) Government had received representations both from Purbanchal Bank Officers' Association as well as from Purbanchal Bank Employees' Association urging that the Purbanchal Bank Ltd. may be merged either with Central Bank of India or with any other nationalised bank. Keeping the interests of the employees as well as depositors of the bank in view, it has now been decided to amalgamate the Purbanchal Bank Ltd. with Central Bank of India.